

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:
a template determination section configured to determine, upon reception of a first job including a first file to be printed, whether or not the first job ~~includes~~ is associated with a template which indicates that a plurality of files including the first file and a second file are to be merged, wherein the second file is included in a second job;
a job holding section configured to store the first job in a storage section when it is determined by the template determination section that the first job includes the template;
a template analysis section configured to determine, based on the template, whether or not all jobs including the plurality of files to be merged are stored in the storage section; and
a control section configured to exert control based on the template so as to merge and print the plurality of files when it is determined by the template analysis section that all the jobs are stored in the storage section.
2. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the template is included in a job name.
3. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the template comprises serial numbers set for ~~over a~~ the plurality of the files.
4. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the template comprises of a pair of a first symbol indicating that ~~[[a]]~~ the first file ~~contained in one job~~ is temporarily stored in the storage section and a second symbol indicating that files temporarily stored in the storage section are merged and printed.

5. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the first job comprises, other than data and a print execution command of the file, a specific print processing instruction indicating at least one of double-sided printing, intensive printing, stapling or punching.

6. (Original) The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein printing of all the jobs is executed in compliance with a specific print processing instruction contained in a last received job among all the jobs.

7. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 1, further comprising a communication section configured to receive jobs containing files to be printed via a network.

8. (Currently Amended) An image forming method, comprising:
determining, upon reception of a first job including a file to be printed, whether or not the first job ~~includes~~ is associated with a template indicating that a plurality of files including the first file and a second file are to be merged, wherein the second file is included in a second job;
storing the first job in a storage section when it is determined that the first job includes the template;
analyzing based on the template whether or not all jobs including the plurality of files to be merged have been stored in the storage section; and
exerting control based on the template so as to merge and print the plurality of files when it is determined that all the jobs have been stored in the storage section.

9. (Previously Presented) The image forming method as defined in Claim 8, wherein the template is included in a job name.

10. (Currently Amended) The image forming method as defined in Claim 8, wherein the template comprises serial numbers set for ~~over a~~ the plurality of the files.

11. (Currently Amended) The image forming method as defined in Claim 8, wherein the template comprises of a pair of a first symbol indicating that ~~[[a]]~~ the first file ~~contained in one job~~ is temporarily stored in the storage section and a second symbol indicating that files temporarily stored in the storage section are merged and printed.

12. (Previously Presented) The image forming method as defined in Claim 8, wherein the first job includes, other than data and a print execution command of the file, specific print processing instructions indicating double-sided printing, intensive printing, stapling and punching.

13. (Original) The image forming method as defined in Claim 8, wherein printing of all the jobs is executed in compliance with a specific print processing instruction contained in a last received job among all the jobs.

14. (Original) The image forming method as defined in Claim 8, wherein jobs containing files to be printed are received by a communication section via a network.

15. (Currently Amended) An image forming system, comprising:
a terminal connected to a network, the terminal configured to instruct a first job including a first file to be printed;
a printing section connected to the network, the printing section configured to execute printing in response to an instruction or control;
a template determination section configured to determine whether or not the first job instructed by the terminal via the network ~~includes~~ is associated with a template which indicates that a plurality of files including the first file and a second file are to be merged, wherein the second file is included in a second job;
a job holding section configured to store the first job in a storage section when it is determined by the template determination section that the first job includes the template;

a template analysis section configured to determine, based on the template, whether or not all jobs including the plurality of files to be merged are stored in the storage section; and

a control section configured to exert control based on the template so as to merge the plurality of files and make the printing section print the plurality of files when it is determined by the template analysis section that all the jobs have been stored in the storage section.